

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-65 (Canceled)

66. (currently amended) A network system comprising a first computer arrangement and a second computer arrangement connected by a computer network, the second computer arrangement storing data and executable fingerprint software, wherein software including a plurality of instructions readable and performable by the first computer arrangement, wherein the first computer arrangement is programmed to:

transmit a request for data to the second computer arrangement;

receive the executable fingerprint software from the second computer arrangement;

execute the executable fingerprint software, wherein ~~execution of the fingerprint software creates the first computer arrangement~~ executes the executable fingerprint software by reading and performing the plurality of instructions, whereby the first computer arrangement creates fingerprint data that is substantially unique to the first computer arrangement and transmits the fingerprint data to the second computer arrangement; and

receive the requested data from the second computer arrangement,

and wherein the second computer arrangement is programmed to:

receive a request for data from the first computer arrangement;

transmit the executable fingerprint software to the first computer arrangement in response to receiving the request;

receive fingerprint data from the first computer arrangement, the fingerprint data being substantially unique to the first computer arrangement; and

transmit the requested data to the first computer arrangement in response to receiving the fingerprint data.

67. (previously presented) The system of claim 66, wherein the fingerprint data includes data which identifies components of the first computer arrangement.

68. (previously presented) The system of claim 67, wherein the fingerprint data includes data relating to hardware present within the first computer arrangement, or to software present within the first computer arrangement.

69. (previously presented) The system of claim 67, wherein the fingerprint data further includes data input by a user in response to a prompt provided by the fingerprint software when executed by the first computer arrangement.

70. (previously presented) The system of claim 66, wherein the second computer arrangement is programmed to store the fingerprint data in association with details of the data transferred from the second computer arrangement to the first computer arrangement, for future reference in identifying the first computer arrangement.

71. (previously presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the second computer arrangement is programmed to provide a message confirming that the fingerprint data has been stored.

72. (currently amended) The system of claim 70, wherein the second computer arrangement is programmed to store, with the fingerprint data, the route by which the fingerprint data ~~travelled~~ traveled across the computer network, including details of any servers through which the fingerprint data passed.

73. (previously presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the second computer arrangement incorporates a database operable to identify a payment required in relation to the data requested by the first computer arrangement.

74. (Previously presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the second computer arrangement contains stored fingerprint data for comparison with fingerprint data received from the first computer arrangement, and the second computer arrangement is programmed to transmit the requested data to the first computer arrangement in accordance with the result of the comparison.

75. (Previously presented) The system of claim 66, wherein the second computer arrangement comprises a vendor computer and a verification computer, the vendor computer storing the data and the fingerprint software,

wherein the vendor computer is programmed to:

receive a request for data from the first computer arrangement;

transmit the fingerprint software to the first computer arrangement in response to receiving the request;

receive a verification signal from the verification computer; and

transmit the requested data to the first computer arrangement in response to receiving the verification signal, and wherein the verification computer is programmed to:

receive the fingerprint data from the first computer arrangement; and

transmit a verification signal to the vendor computer in response to receiving the fingerprint data.

76. (currently amended) A client computer connectable to a server computer arrangement over a computer network, the client computer being programmed to:

transmit a request for data to the server computer arrangement;

receive executable fingerprint software from the server computer arrangement in response to transmitting the request for ~~data~~, data, the executable fingerprint software including a

plurality of instructions readable and performable by the client computer;

execute the executable fingerprint software, wherein ~~execution of the fingerprint software creates~~ the client computer executes the executable fingerprint software by reading and performing the plurality of instructions, whereby the client computer creates fingerprint data that is substantially unique to the client computer and transmits the fingerprint data to the server computer arrangement; and

receive the requested data from the server computer arrangement in response to transmitting the fingerprint data.

77. (previously presented) The client computer of claim 76, wherein the fingerprint data includes data which uniquely identifies components of the client computer.

78. (previously presented) The client computer of claim 77, wherein the fingerprint data includes data relating to hardware present within the client computer.

79. (previously presented) The client computer of claim 77, wherein the fingerprint data includes data relating to software present within the client computer.

80. (previously presented) The client computer of claim 77, wherein the fingerprint data includes data input by a user in response to a prompt provided by the fingerprint software when executed by the client computer.

81. (currently amended) A server computer arrangement connectable to a client computer over a computer network, the server computer arrangement storing data and executable fingerprint ~~software, wherein~~ software including a plurality of instructions readable and performable by the client computer, wherein the server computer arrangement is programmed to:

receive a request for data from the client computer;  
transmit the executable fingerprint software to the client computer in response to receiving the request, the ~~fingerprint software when executed by the client computer creating client computer,~~ upon executing the executable fingerprint software by reading and performing the plurality of instructions, creates fingerprint data that is substantially unique to the client computer and ~~transmitting~~ transmits the fingerprint data to the server computer arrangement; and  
receive fingerprint data from the client computer; and  
transmit the requested data to the client computer in response to receiving the fingerprint data.

82. (previously presented) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the fingerprint data includes data which uniquely identifies components of the client computer.

83. (previously presented) The server computer arrangement of claim 82, wherein the fingerprint data includes data relating to hardware present within the client computer, or to software present within the client computer.

84. (previously presented) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the fingerprint data includes data input by a user in response to a prompt provided by the fingerprint software when executed by the client computer.

85. (previously presented) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the server computer arrangement is programmed to provide a message confirming that the fingerprint data has been stored.

86. (currently amended) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the server computer arrangement is programmed to store, with the fingerprint data, the route by which the

fingerprint data ~~travelled~~ traveled across the computer network, including details of any servers through which the fingerprint data passed.

87. (previously presented) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the server computer arrangement incorporates a database operable to identify the payment required in relation to the data requested by the client computer.

88. (previously presented) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the server computer arrangement contains stored fingerprint data for comparison with fingerprint data received from the client computer, and the server computer arrangement is programmed to transmit the requested data to the client computer in accordance with the result of the comparison.

89. (previously presented) The server computer arrangement of claim 81, wherein the server computer arrangement comprises a vendor computer and a verification computer, the vendor computer storing the data and the fingerprint software, wherein the vendor computer is programmed to:

- receive a request for data from the client computer;
- transmit the fingerprint software to the client computer in response to receiving the request;
- receive a verification signal from the verification computer; and
- transmit the requested data to the client computer in response to receiving the verification signal,

and wherein the verification computer is programmed to:

- receive the fingerprint data from the client computer; and
- transmit a verification signal to the vendor computer in response to receiving the fingerprint data.

90. (currently amended) A method of operating a network system comprising a first computer arrangement and a second computer arrangement connected by a computer network, wherein:

- the first computer arrangement requests data be transferred from the second computer arrangement to the first computer arrangement;
- in response to the request, the second computer arrangement transmits executable fingerprint software from the second computer arrangement to the first computer arrangement;
- the first computer arrangement executes the executable fingerprint software ~~to create~~ by reading and performing the plurality of instructions and thereby creates fingerprint data that is substantially unique to the first computer arrangement and ~~transmit~~ transmits the fingerprint data to the second computer arrangement,
- the second computer arrangement receives the fingerprint data from the first computer arrangement; and
- in response to receiving the fingerprint data, the second computer arrangement transmits the requested data from the second computer arrangement to the first computer arrangement.

91. (previously presented) The method of claim 90, wherein the fingerprint data includes data which identifies components of the first computer arrangement.

92. (previously presented) The method of claim 91, wherein the fingerprint data includes data relating to hardware present within the first computer arrangement, or to software present within the first computer arrangement.

93. (previously presented) The method of claim 91, wherein execution of the fingerprint software prompts a user of the first computer to provide further data to be included in the fingerprint data.

94. (previously presented) The method of claim 90, wherein the fingerprint data is stored in association with details of the data transferred from the second computer arrangement to the first computer arrangement, for future reference to identify the first computer arrangement.

95. (previously presented) The method of claim 94, wherein a message is provided to confirm that the fingerprint data has been stored.

96. (currently amended) The method of claim 94, wherein the route by which the fingerprint data ~~travelled~~ traveled across the computer network is stored with the fingerprint data, including details of any servers through which the fingerprint data passed.

97. (previously presented) The method of claim 94, wherein fingerprint data is stored by the second computer arrangement and the method further comprises comparing fingerprint data received by the second computer arrangement with the fingerprint data stored by the second computer arrangement, and transmitting the requested data to the first computer arrangement in accordance with the result of the comparison.

98. (currently amended) A data storage medium comprising software, the software being executable by a server computer arrangement connected to a client computer arrangement such that the server computer arrangement is programmed to:

receive a request for data from the client computer arrangement;

transmit executable fingerprint software to the client computer arrangement in response to receiving the request, the fingerprint software including a plurality of instructions readable and performable by the client computer arrangement and, when executed by the client computer ~~arrangement creating~~ arrangement by reading and performing the plurality of



instructions, the executable fingerprint software creates  
fingerprint data that is substantially unique to the client  
computer arrangement and ~~transmitting~~ transmits the fingerprint  
data to the server computer arrangement;

receive fingerprint data from the client computer  
arrangement; and

transmit the requested data to the client computer  
arrangement in response to receiving the fingerprint data.

99. (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim  
98, wherein the fingerprint software is operable to create  
fingerprint data which includes data uniquely identifying  
components of the client computer arrangement.

100. (previously presented) The data storage medium of  
claim 99, wherein the fingerprint data includes data relating to  
hardware or software present within the client computer  
arrangement.

101. (previously presented) The data storage medium of  
claim 99, wherein the fingerprint data includes data input by a  
user in response to a prompt provided by the fingerprint software  
when executed by the client computer arrangement.

102. (currently amended) A network system comprising a  
client computer, a vendor computer and a verification computer,  
wherein the client computer is programmed to:

transmit a request for data to the vendor computer;

receive executable fingerprint software ~~software~~ software, including  
a plurality of instructions readable and performable by the  
client computer, from the vendor computer;

execute the executable fingerprint software, wherein  
~~execution of the fingerprint software~~ the client computer  
executes the fingerprint software by reading and performing the  
plurality of instructions and the client computer thereby creates

fingerprint data that is substantially unique to the client computer and transmits the fingerprint data to the verification computer; and

receive the requested data from the vendor computer, wherein the vendor computer is programmed to:

receive a request for data from the client computer;

transmit the fingerprint software to the client computer in response to receiving the request;

receive a verification signal from the verification computer; and

transmit the requested data to the client computer in response to receiving the verification signal,

and wherein the verification computer is programmed to:

receive the fingerprint data from the client computer; and

transmit a verification signal to the vendor computer in response to receiving the fingerprint data.